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September 25, 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

BY HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Re:

Notice of Ex Parte Presentation

in CS Docket Nos. 98-120, 00-96 & 00-2

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Gemstar-TV Guide International, Inc. ("Gemstar"), on September 25, 2002, Greg Simon of InfoTech Strategies and the undersigned met with R. Paul Margie, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Michael J. Copps, to discuss the multiple reasons why the Commission must include electronic program guide ("EPG") data in its definition of "program-related" material in CS Dkt. No. 98-120, consistent with earlier Gemstar filings.

In particular, we discussed the similarity between Microsoft-controlled Internet web browsers and cable-controlled EPGs; the wide discretion afforded the Commission by Section 614 of the Communications Act to define program-relatedness to include EPG data in the digital context, which would preclude cable operators from disabling EPGs that compete with their own EPGs; and the Commission's erroneous deviation, in 2001, from its announced intention in 1993 to apply the WGN test flexibly and in light of surrounding policy considerations, as the Commission did in finding that Nielsen "SID" codes are program-related under WGN although they meet none of its criteria and are not intended to be seen by viewers at any time. We also discussed the lack of any public benefit from allowing cable stripping of independent EPG data, and the several public interest benefits of requiring its undisturbed pass-through. For example, unlike cable-owned EPGs, independent EPGs lack any incentive to misuse the guide to discriminate against unaffiliated programmers.

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An original of this filing, and two copies for each proceeding listed above, are being submitted to the Secretary's Office in compliance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission rules.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Berg

Attachment

cc: Chairman Michael C. Powell

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Commissioner Michael J. Copps Commissioner Kevin J. Martin

Ms. Susan M. Eid

Mr. Paul Margie

Ms. Stacy Robinson

Ms. Alexis Johns

Ms. Catherine C. Bohigian

Mr. W. Kenneth Ferree

Mr. Rick Chessen